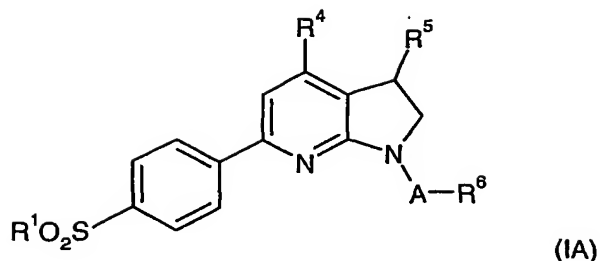
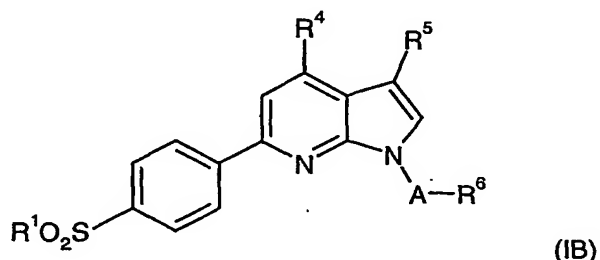


29



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in which all substituents are as for a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

3. A compound of formula (IB)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in which all substituents are as for a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

4. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein R¹ is C₁₋₆alkyl.

5. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein R⁴ is H, CHF₂, CH₂F, CF₃ or C₁₋₄alkyl.

6. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 5 wherein R⁵ is H, C₁₋₄alkyl, -CHO, or -(CH₂)_nCH₂OH.

7. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 wherein R⁶ is C₃₋₅alkyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₃alkyl, or phenyl optionally substituted by halogen.

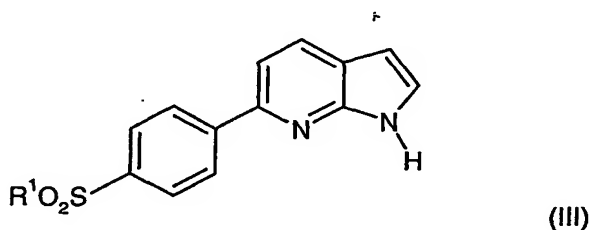
8. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 7 wherein n is 0 or 1.

9. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R¹ is C₁₋₃alkyl, R⁴ is H, CHF₂, CH₂F, CF₃ or C₁₋₄alkyl, R⁵ is H, C₁₋₄alkyl, -CHO, or -CH₂OH, n is 1, and R⁶

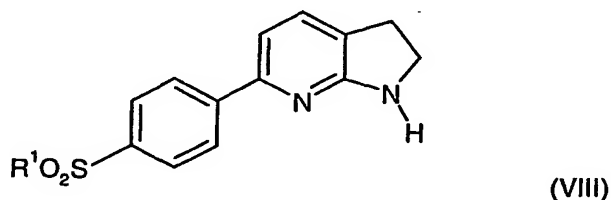
is C₃₋₅alkyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₃alkyl, or phenyl optionally substituted by halogen.

10. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R¹ is C₁₋₃alkyl, R⁴ is H, CHF₂, CH₂F, CF₃ or C₁₋₄alkyl, R⁵ is H, C₁₋₄alkyl, -CHO, or -CH₂OH, n is 0, and R⁶ is phenyl optionally substituted by halogen.
11. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R¹ is CH₃, R³ is H, R⁴ is H, R⁵ is H, C₁₋₄alkyl, -CHO, or -CH₂OH, A is (CH₂)_n and n is 1, and R⁶ is C₃₋₅alkyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl optionally substituted by CH₃, or phenyl optionally substituted by chloro.
12. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R¹ is CH₃, R³ is H, R⁴ is H, R⁵ is H, A is (CH₂)_n and n is 0, and R⁶ is phenyl optionally substituted by fluoro.
13. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 and selected from any of the Examples 1 to 18.
14. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (IA), as defined in claim 2, where each of R⁴ and R⁵ is hydrogen, which comprises:

reducing a compound of formula (III)



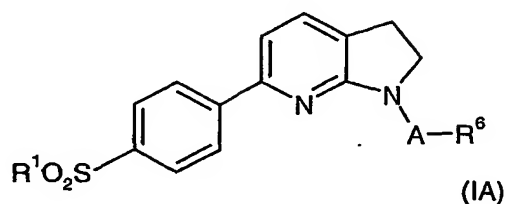
to form a compound of formula (VIII);



- 20 reacting said compound of formula (VIII) with a compound R⁶-A-X, or a protected derivative thereof, where X is a halogen, such as Cl, Br or I, or a sulfonate such as methanesulfonate, (4-methyl)benzenesulfonate or

31

trifluoromethanesulfonate, and A and R⁶ are as hereinbefore defined; such as to produce a compound of formula (IA), wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are both hydrogen



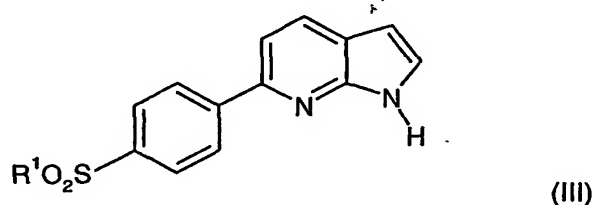
5 and thereafter and if necessary,

interconverting said compound of formula (IA) into another compound of formula (IA); and/or

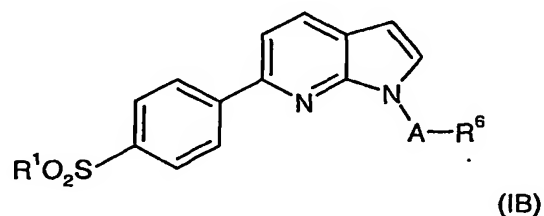
deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (IA).

10 15. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (IB), as defined in claim 3, where each of R⁴ and R⁵ is hydrogen, which comprises:

reacting a compound R⁶-A-X (II) or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)



15 where X is a halogen, such as Cl, Br or I, or a sulfonate, such as methanesulfonate, (4-methyl)benzenesulfonate or trifluoromethanesulfonate, and R⁶ and A are as hereinbefore defined, to produce a compound of formula (IB) in accordance with the present invention :



and thereafter and if necessary,

interconverting said compound of formula (IB) into another compound of formula (I); and/or

deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (IB).

- 5 16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.
17. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 for use in human or veterinary medicine.
- 10 18. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10.
- 15 19. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10.
- 20 20. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 for the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for the treatment of a condition which is mediated by COX-2.
21. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 for the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for the treatment of an inflammatory disorder.